

Message Text

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17

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 060149Z JUN 75

FM AMEMXRSSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5453

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 3192

EXDIS

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS SREF VS TW

SUBJECT: FORMER PRESIDENT THEIU'S ENTOURAGE

REF A. STATE 127664 B. TAIPEI 2455 C. TAIPEI 2617

1. I MET WITH THIEU JUNE 5, AND CONVEYED TO HIM MESSAGE
CONTAINED PARA 1, REFTEL A.

2. THIEU SAID HE COULD NOT SPEAK FOR KHIEM, BUT AS FOR HIMSELF
HE HAD NO PLANS FOR LEAVING TAIPEI AT ANY EARLY DATE. HE
REALIZED HE WAS A CONTROVERSIAL FIGURE AND UNDERSTOOD OUR
CONCERN. HE DID NOT WISH IN ANY WAY TO BECOME A DISRUPTIVE
ELEMENT IN THE HUMANTARIAN EFFORT USG UNDERTAKING TO
SETTLE VIETNAMESE REFUGEES. HE WAS MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO
MAINTAIN A LOW PROFILE SO AS NOT TO CAUSE ANYONE ANY
EMBARRASSMENT. HE HAD ASSIDUOUSLY AVOIDED ANY CONTACT
WITH THE PRESS DESPITE HAVING BEEN BESEIGED BY
REQUESTS FOR INTERVIEWS FROM "HUNDREDS" OF JOURNALISTS AND HAVING
BEEN SORELY PROVOKED BY OPPONENTS AND
CRITICS SUCH AS NGUYEN CAO KY, AGAINST
WHOM HE DELIVERED HIMSELF OF A TEN MINUTE TIRADE.

3. HOWEVER, THEIU REQUESTED THAT WE RECONSIDER THE
POSSIBILITY OF HIS WIFE AND ADOPTED DAUGHTER TRAVELLING
TO PITTSBURGH TO JOIN HIS DAUGHTER AND SON-IN-LAW (SEE
TAIPEI 2455 AND TAIPEI 2617, PARA 5). THIEU ARGUED THAT
WIFE HAD NEVER PLAYED ANY POLITICAL ROLE, HAD ALWAYS
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REMAINED IN BACKGROUND; THAT SHE COULD AVOID ATTENTION

BY TRAVELLING UNDER MAINDEN NAME; THAT SHE WOULD FLY COMMERCIAL, PAYING OWN TRANSPORTATION, AND WOULD NOT BE PROCESSED THROUGH ANY OF THE REFUGEE CENTERS WHICH SHE WISHED TO AVOID IN ANY EVENT. PAIR HOPES TO DEPART TAIPEI SOMETIME IN JULY.

4. THIEU ALSO REQUESTED THAT SPECIAL CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO SIX MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF AND THEIR FAMILIES (AS LISTED PARA 3, TAIPEI 2455). NONE OF THESE INDIVIDUALS HAS ANY MEANS OF SUPPORTING THEMSELVES IN TAIWAN; NOR DO THEY HAVE ANY RELATIVES OR OTHER CONTACTS IN U.S. THEIU REQUESTS THAT THEY BE ALLOWED TO ENTER REFUGEE FLOW IN GUAM. IF USG CANNOT PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION FOR THEM, HE SAID THEY WOULD FIND SOME WAY OF SCRAPING UP ENOUGH MONEY TO PAY THEIR TRAVEL AS FAR AS GUAM.

5. I TOLD THIEU I WOULD TRANSMIT HIS REQUESTS TO WASHINGTON.

6. I SHALL SEEK EARLY MEETING WITH KHIEM TO CONVEY

MESSAGE CONTAINED REF A.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: EARLY RESPONSE TO THIEU'S REQUESTS FOR WIFE AND ADOPTED DAUGHTER JOIN DAUGHTER AND SON-IN-LAW IN PITTSBURGH, AND STAFF GROUP TO ENTER REFUGEE FLOW.
POPPL

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